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WRITTEN OPINION

Form PCT/IPEA/408 (Box V) (July 1998)
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International application No.

PCT/US00/15546

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | <u>4, 5, 7-9, 11, and 12</u> | YES |
| | Claims | <u>1-3, 6, 10, and 13</u> | NO |
| Inventive Step (IS) | Claims | <u>NONE</u> | YES |
| | Claims | <u>1-13</u> | NO |
| Industrial Applicability (IA) | Claims | <u>1-13</u> | YES |
| | Claims | <u>NONE</u> | NO |

2. citations and explanations

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, and 13 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Walker US Patent 5,797,127.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, and 13, Walker teaches a method and system for allowing a remote user to purchase, over a distributed computer network, an option or futures contract for a ticket to a contingent event, which system comprises a host server operative with a program including:

(i) an event database connected in communication with said host server, said database including ticket identifiers each representative of a ticket for a contingent participant-event (column 3, line 1 thru column 8, line 53),

(ii) an option or futures bid database in communication with said host server, said option or futures bid database including allocation fields representative of an option or futures bid for each of said tickets (column 3, line 1 thru column 8, line 53),

(iii) an interface manager implemented on said server and in communication with said databases; wherein said interface manager processes option or futures bids from remote users to determine whether to accept the option or futures bid and to update the allocation field (column 3, line 1 thru column 8, line 53), and

wherein the services are at least one of a sporting event ticket, an airline ticket, a charter airline reservation, a hotel reservation, a rental car reservation, a restaurant reservation, a bus ticket, a train ticket, and a ticket or reservation to an attraction in the locale of the contingent ticketed event (column 3, line 1 thru column 8, line 53).

lack

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11, and 12 *lack* an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Walker US Patent 5,797,127.

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11, and 12, Walker fails to teach that the ticket is for a sporting event or the presence of a team in a sports event or the presence of an athlete in a sporting event.

Purchasing tickets for a sporting event is old and well (Continued on Supplemental Sheet.)

WRITTEN OPINION

Form PCT/IPEA/408 (Supplemental Box) (July 1998)
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International application No.

PCT/US00/15546

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

TIME LIMIT:

The time limit set for response to a Written Opinion may not be extended. 37 CFR 1.484(d). Any response received after the expiration of the time limit set in the Written Opinion will not be considered in preparing the International Preliminary Examination Report.

V. 2. REASONED STATEMENTS - CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS (Continued):

known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to modify the teachings of Walker to include that the ticket is for a sporting event or the presence of a team in a sports event or the presence of an athlete in a sporting event because, both systems are providing the user with options to purchase tickets.

Walker uses the "airline" tickets as way of an example, Walker indicates that other types of tickets.

NEW CITATIONS -----

NONE